(d) The document on Technology Mission on Coconut is being finalised.

Transfer of Disaster Management to Ministry of Home Affairs

3518. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disaster management has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what additional infrastructure the Ministry is going to provide for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rule specify the subjects to be handled by different Ministries and Departments of the Central Government. These Rules assign the subject of handling of natural calamities to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Drought in Karnataka

3519. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team was deputed by Government to assess severe drought situation in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by the Central team and its recommendations; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 894.65 crores; if so, the amount released so far and the details of steps proposed to be taken for the benefit of the drought affected people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team felt that deficiency of rainfall coupled with long dry spells resulted in drought like situation. According to the team, there is depletion of water tables, problem of availability of drinking water and need for generation of employment.